

REMARKS

With this response, 37 claims are pending. No claims have been added or cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 21, and 27 are rewritten. It is believed that new matter has been added

5 by way of these amendments.

Applicants have submitted a credit card payment form for the small entity fee for a one-month extension of time (\$55.00). It is not believed that any other fees are necessary at this time. However, in the event fees are required, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to take any necessary fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, from deposit account 50-0913.

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I. Interview Summary

Applicants sincerely thank Examiner Mendoza and his primary Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on August 19, 2003. Applicants appreciate the opportunity to discuss their invention, and the outstanding rejections, with the Office.

15 During the interview, Applicants presented an overview of their invention. Applicants also described why their invention is patentable over McBride and Itkis. Although no agreement was reached, the Office indicated that it appeared that Applicants' reasoning was sufficient to overcome the rejections over McBride and Itkis. However, the Office indicated that additional search would be required before claims could be allowed.

20 Applicants again thank the Examiners for their time and consideration and hope that the interview moves this case towards allowance.

II. Claim Objections

The Office objected to claims 1-6, 27-33, 35, and 37 because of certain informalities.

Applicants have corrected these minor typographical errors and respectfully request the Office to withdraw its objection to claims 1-6, 27-33, 35, and 37. In addition, claims 7, 9, 11, 12, and 21

5 have been rewritten to correct certain typographical errors.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A Brief Review of One Embodiment of Applicants' Invention

In one embodiment of Applicants' invention, a table game system is provided that allows 10 a player to place a side wager in conjunction with a primary game. The use of a video display, such as an LCD screen, may allow for dynamic side wager presentations to be presented to the player, increasing player interest and therefore encouraging players to play longer and generating more revenue for the gaming establishment. *See* pages 5, 7, and 45.

Applicants teach that the video display can be used for a variety of purposes, and be 15 connected to a variety of video sources. For example, the video display may show attract video, sporting, news, or other video entertainment, text, or banners. *See* page 44. The video content source may be sources such as a VCR, television, cable video source, DVD, or a hard disk drive. *See, e.g.*, page 32.

When used as part of the side wager game, the video display may display animation 20 sequences relating to the side wager game. For example, Applicants disclose a game called "follow the queen" where images of three cards are displayed and animated on the video screen. *See* pages 44-45.

Rejection Over McBride

The Office rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,336,857 to McBride (hereinafter, “McBride”). McBride purports to suggest “a gaming table top suitable for progressive jackpot side betting and ways to 5 accomplishing [sic] same.” McBride appears to suggest incorporating into the game table a “LED progressive jackpot display 20 [that] can serve multiple purposes.” The LED display appears to be limited to an “alphanumeric” display that “enables the house to show the amount of the accumulative jackpot at every hand.” Col. 2, lns. 28-35. The alphanumeric display of McBride appears to be similar to those used to display simple text message, such as stock quotes 10 or text banners, and appears to have quite limited display abilities.

It appears that the “video display,” “video content sources,” and “video input controller” claimed by Applicants are quite different from the limited alphanumeric display of McBride. For instance, the video display of Applicants’ invention is capable of displaying things such as video clips, televised and prerecorded video content, other types of animation, in addition to 15 relatively simple banners and text displays. *See* page 13. It does not appear that the alphanumeric display of McBride would be useable in Applicants’ invention. Therefore, Applicants assert that the alphanumeric display of McBride does not meet the “video display” limitation of claim 1.

Similarly, claim 1 includes “a plurality of video content sources.” The content sources 20 may include a DVD, a VCR, television, satellite, and a hard disk drive. *See* page 32. In contrast, McBride contains very little disclosure regarding its alphanumeric display, how it is programmed, how it is controlled, or its source of information. Furthermore, there does not appear to be any disclosure of a plurality of video content sources. Indeed, McBride states that “Additional messages can also be keyed into the display directed towards the player.” This

appears to indicate that the content is located only in the display. McBride does not appear to disclose a plurality of video content sources.

Because there is no plurality of video content sources in McBride, there is also no “video input controller having multiple video inputs and a video output, each of said inputs being in communication with at least one of said video content sources.” McBride contains no disclosure of multiple video sources, much less how to interconnect them.

Because McBride does not teach a video display, a plurality of video content sources, or a video input controller, as disclosed and claimed by Applicants, it does not teach, suggest, or provide all elements of Applicants’ claims. Accordingly, McBride does not anticipate Applicants’ claims. Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office rejected claims 3, 4, and 7-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McBride in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,856,787 to Itkis (hereinafter, “Itkis”).

Itkis purports to suggest “a distributed game network comprising a master game device and a number of slave game devices.” Itkis states that “The slave game devices executes in real time (play) concurrently a number of menu-selectable card and chance games, such as bingo, keno, poker, blackjack, and the like.” Col 1, lns. 40-53.

The Office appears to be relying on McBride as allegedly suggesting a system computing server, a video content distribution network, and a plurality of video displays in communication with the system computer server. McBride has already been discussed. Applicants respectfully assert that McBride does not suggest a video content distribution network or video displays as

taught and claimed by Applicants. As has already been discussed, the alphanumeric displays of McBride are very different and much more limited than the displays used in Applicants' invention. Similarly, McBride does not suggest "video content" as taught by Applicants, much less multiple sources of video content. The Office has asserted that McBride teaches Applicants' 5 video display, including sports content and music entertainment content, by disclosing that "the LED progressive jackpot display can serve multiple purposes." Applicants believe that the alphanumeric display of McBride could not, for example, display sporting events. Certainly McBride completely fails to teach one of skill in the art to display such content, much less contain any enabling disclosure that would teach one of skill in the art to implement this concept.

10 Because McBride fails to teach the elements of Applicants claims for which McBride is asserted against Applicants, Applicants assert that their claimed invention is patentable over the cited References.

The above discussion will be now applied specifically to each of the rejected independent claims. The relevant portions of claim 7 are:

15 B. a video content distribution network in communication with the system computing server and in dynamically selectable communication with a plurality of video content sources;
C. a plurality of video displays in communication with the system computing server through the video content distribution 20 network, each said video display being mounted adjacent to at least one gaming table...

As discussed above, McBride fails to teach a video content distribution network in communication with a plurality of video content sources. The alphanumeric display of McBride 25 is different than the display devices taught by Applicants and would be unsuitable for use in Applicants' invention.

The relevant portions of claim 13 are reproduced below:

a video system associated with the first and second card gaming tables and including:

5 i. a first video display apparatus in communication with the computer network and mounted in association with the first card gaming table whereby a first game player at the first game table may view first card gaming table side-wager indicia on the video display apparatus;

10 ii. a second video display apparatus in communication with the computer network and mounted in association with the second card gaming table whereby a second game player at the second card game table may view second card game table side-wager indicia on the video display apparatus;

15 iii. a video content serving apparatus in communication with multiple video content sources and with the first video display apparatus and the second video display apparatus....

McBride fails to teach a first and second video display apparatus as disclosed by Applicants.

20 McBride's display would be unsuitable for use in Applicants' invention. McBride fails to teach a video content serving apparatus in communication with multiple video content sources.

The relevant portions of independent claim 14 are reproduced below:

25 B. providing a video display simultaneously viewable by the one or more game players at the one game table;

25 C. providing at least one game player with the opportunity to also participate in a supplemental game conducted at least in part in conjunction with supplemental game video content displayed on the video display...

30 McBride fails to teach a video display suitable for use in Applicants' invention. McBride's alphanumeric display does not appear capable of displaying supplemental game video content as disclosed by Applicants.

The relevant portions of claim 20 are reproduced below:

35 B. providing a plurality of video displays, each of which video displays being mounted in association with at least one game table among the plurality of game tables and viewable by said one or more game players at said one game table;

C. providing at least one game player with the opportunity to also participate in a supplemental game conducted at least in part in conjunction with video content displayed on the video display viewable to the at least one game player; and

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McBride fails to teach a video display suitable for use in Applicants' invention. McBride's alphanumeric display does not appear capable of displaying supplemental game video content as disclosed by Applicants.

Itkis fails to teach the elements of Applicants' invention for which Itkis is asserted. In 10 particular, independent claims 7, 13, 14, and 15 refer to a "supplemental" game. The Office alleged that McBride fails to teach, but Itkis provides, "at least one game player with opportunity to also participate in a *supplemental* game conducted at least in part in conjunction with video content displayed on the video display viewable to at least one game player." Page 5 (emphasis in original). The Office apparently is asserting that multiple games are equivalent to a 15 supplemental game played in conjunction with a primary game.

As used in Applicants' disclosure, a "supplemental" game is one that is used in conjunction with a primary game. Applicants state that a "supplemental" game is "**a bonus or side wager game.**" Page 7. Applicants teach that the side wager game "supplements" the primary game to increase the level of excitement for the player and provide the player with more 20 ways to win. *See* page 45.

As one example of a supplemental game, a player might play a primary game of blackjack that offers a supplemental game. *See, e.g.*, pages 43-45. The player might make a bet on the outcome of the primary game and, optionally, a bet that a certain outcome will occur. If the qualifying outcome in the primary game occurs, the player is given the opportunity to play 25 the supplemental game. Both the primary game and the supplemental game are part of one round of game play.

Applicants respectfully assert that Itkis does not teach a "supplemental" game because each primary game in Itkis, although played concurrently, does not really "supplement" anything. Rather, each game in Itkis appears to be an independent, primary game.

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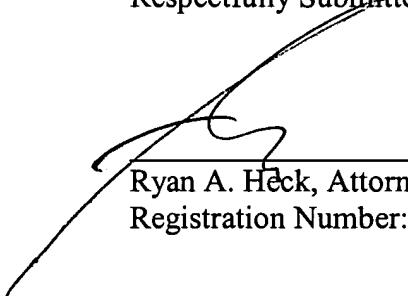
CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application or this Amendment A, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicants' attorney, Ryan A. Heck, at (775) 826-6160.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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